



The Probus Letter

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA
by: **PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.**
2855 Olympic Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2L8

January, 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ken Leaney
President

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc., I extend to you the sincere wish that you have enjoyed the Holiday Season and are heading into the year 2004 with a positive sense of anticipation of opportunities for continued good fellowship and enjoyment as members of Probus Clubs across Canada.

There are so many opportunities for new friendships, and enhancement of existing ones, through active involvement with Probus in a manner which is neither demanding or full of commitment, other than that of enjoying those activities that each Club chooses to provide.... and they are as varied as the imagination can possibly allow. Over these past months, I have enjoyed tremendously the opportunity to read many of the newsletter publications of Clubs across Canada, and I am constantly amazed at the variety of interests that are recognized and responded to by the various committees who initiate and organize the programs and events for their members, and I compliment you for your accomplishments.

Another area which speaks very positively about our organization is the constant growth and development of new Clubs across Canada as well as the continued growth of members in so many of our current Clubs, a large number of whom have waiting lists. Through the co-operative efforts of many.... existing Probus Clubs; Rotary; your national Board of Directors; and interested citizens, our growth of new Clubs continues to maintain a steady pace of an average of **1.5** new Clubs each month. I look forward to the continuation of this high level of interest by non-members of Probus, and the willingness of current members to share their pleasure of belonging with others in their community or neighboring communities. Please remember that this development is one of the primary objectives of Probus Centre-Canada and let us know if you see a need or desire for the start-up of a new Club in your area..... we are here to assist and guide.

Since my beginning of active involvement with my election as my Club's representative on the Board of Probus Centre-Canada I have seen a major increase in the number of Clubs across the country, and have also noted the increased demand on our Board Members and part-time staff as we try to maintain this growth and, at the same time, keep the level of service to all Clubs as effective and efficient as possible. We have experienced growing pains, as you have, and on occasion there have been small glitches in some areas of communication or services provided, as may happen with any organization of our type. We have done our very best to correct our shortcomings and will continue to do so through a very dedicated group of volunteers on the national Board and a very small contingent of appointed persons who carry out the various administrative functions on a daily basis. I want to assure you that whatever we do, the Board of Directors of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc. have always kept the best interests of the Probus Clubs in Canada in mind as we carry out our assigned duties..... and it will continue to be so into the future.

I thank you for your past support and I hope that 2004 will be a great year for each and every one !

PROBUS LAPEL PINS



We have been most pleased with the number of Clubs who have responded to our notice and have ordered special 5, 10 and 15 year pins for presentation to those Members who have served with their respective Clubs for these periods of time. Many of the Clubs have been celebrating "anniversaries" and as part of the proceedings have recognized those who have been involved from the beginning. Remember that Probus pins (regular lapel, Past President or special 5,10 or 15 year) are ordered through Probus Centre. Lapel pins are \$4.00 each in orders of 25 or more, past President pins are \$7.50 and the special term pins are \$5.00. Order from Probus Centre by regular mail to:
2855 Olympic Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2L8 or by email ... rwbynott@nanaimo.ark.com .

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If your Club is in need of assistance or guidance with any Probus related item please do not hesitate to contact any of the Officers or Directors listed above. For administrative items or ordering of Probus pins please contact the Managing Director.

"RENDEZVOUS CANADA 2005"

As you will be aware, a group of Probus Clubs from the Muskoka area of Ontario have recently conducted a survey of Probus Clubs in Canada to determine the level of interest in attending at a national gathering of Probus members from across Canada at a fellowship event to be held in their region in the fall of 2005. The Committee recently reported to the Board of Directors of Probus Canada on the results of the survey which showed that over 700 replies were received with many comments and suggestions for consideration by the Committee. The responses indicate that there is indeed a fair level of interest in the idea with some modifications required to the original plan of activities.

Following the meeting with the Board and some in-depth discussion, the Muskoka Committee have expressed a willingness to continue working toward a more acceptable program for consideration by the Board and submission to the Clubs across Canada.

In the future you will be receiving more information on this event from the Committee or the Board. In the meantime, our sincere thanks to all who did respond to the original survey with comments and suggestions. It is the hope of the Committee and your Board of Directors that this can be developed into an opportunity for Probus fellowship of national scope and enhance the aims and objectives of our organization.

PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Over the past few months the Constitution and Bylaws of Probus Canada have undergone a review and some revision. The process for this followed the guidelines as set out in the previous Constitution and Bylaws and all Clubs registered with Probus Canada at the time of the review had an opportunity for input and a vote on the revisions. Many Clubs forwarded constructive suggestions for consideration and all of these comments are on record for consideration in the future. Thank you very much for your interest and input.

By this time your Club should have received the report on this project and a copy of the revised documents for your files. Copies went to each and every Club in Canada and if your copy has not been received please advise the Managing Director and this will be corrected.

FROM AROUND THE CLUBS :

In a recent newsletter we advised of a Member of the Probus Club of **Greater Moncton, Larry Hutchison**, who had reached the age of **98** years and was still a very active Member of his Club. Since then we have been advised of **Bert Whitfield** of the Probus Club of **Cambridge** who has just celebrated his **96th** birthday as well as **Andy Fyfe – 93rd** and **Harry Tobin – 91st**, both of whom are Members of the **Saanich Peninsula** Club.

WHERE ARE WE NOW ?

As you receive this copy of the newsletter you will also receive your copy of the **Membership Directory of Probus Clubs in Canada**, a most valuable tool for your Club and your individual members. A perusal of the directory will show that we now have Probus Clubs in all provinces of Canada with the exception of Quebec and we do have some persons working to set up a Club in that province which will hopefully happen in the months ahead. Club #157 in St. John's, Nfld is underway and very much involved in providing a wide variety of events and programs for their members. Should you wish to welcome our first Club in Newfoundland their listing can be found on Page 10 of the new Directory.

As stated by President Ken in his message, we are averaging one and a half new Clubs per month in our development program with 18 new Clubs in the calendar year 2003. Our thanks to all who have helped make this happen .

Probus Canada has now issued **159** Charters and **156** of these Clubs are active and well as they continue to provide their special services to their members. Our total number of individual members is now approximately **19,400**.

FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

From the Women's Probus Club of Newmarket

YOU THINK A GALLON OF GAS IS EXPENSIVE

Lipton Iced tea	16 oz.	\$1.19	\$ 9.52 per gallon
Gatorade	20 oz.	\$1.59	10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray	16 oz.	\$1.25	10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid	12 oz.	\$3.15	33.60 per gallon
Pepto Bismal	4 oz.	\$3.85	123.20 per gallon
Scope	1.5 oz.	\$0.99	84.48 per gallon
Evian Water	9 oz.	\$1.49	21.29 per gallon

\$21.19 FOR WATER ! But then again Evian spelled backwards is "naive". So the next time you're at the pump, be glad that your car doesn't run on Scope, Pepto Bismal or Water !!!

"FROM AROUND THE CLUBS"

Probus Club of Niagara North once again proof that Probus members are still active people... "Congratulations to **Minda and Andy Reyes** who recently competed at the **Ontario Amateur Closed Dance** competitions in Toronto on October 25th at the Senior Championship Level and danced their way to **First Place**." Andy was Charter President of the Niagara North Club n 2001.

Probus Club of Woodstock-Oxford once again a delegation from this Club participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies in their hometown as did many other Clubs across the country. Some Probus Clubs were invited to place a wreath in memory of lost comrades in the various conflicts.

Probus Club of Central Edmonton "How Unusual" --- Panama Hats are made in Ecuador. The Hundred years War took 116 years to finish. Camel's hair brushes are made from red squirrel fur. The purple finch is crimson in color. In Russia they celebrate the October Revolution in November. Every lie is a moment of truth. Catgut comes from sheep. Chinese Gooseberries come from New Zealand. King George VI's first name was Albert. And, **The best way of doing things is as good as any !**

Probus Club of Qualicum Beach **This is an important notice for any members (or their spouses) who are permanent residents of Canada and not Canadian Citizens.** As of January 1, 2004 every permanent resident of Canada, who leaves Canada (and that includes over the U.S. border) will require a new **Permanent Resident Card** (now commonly called a Maple Leaf Card) as well as a passport to get back into Canada. Make sure you have one in your possession before leaving Canada. Contact your Travel Agent, on the form can be obtained on the Government Internet site.

Probus Club of Saint John "For those of you who watch what you eat...Here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Canadians.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Canadians.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Canadians.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Canadians.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Canadians.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you !"

The following item has been taken from the newsletter of the Probus Club of Qualicum Beach and is presented for consideration of reprinting in your own Club newsletter for the information of your members.

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EVER LOSE YOUR WALLET OR CREDIT CARDS ?

Nearly everyone has experienced this horrible feeling. The following is some friendly advice that was received from a lawyer on the Internet by our Secretary Ruth Gayton.

1. The next time you order cheques have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your cheque book they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials, or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
2. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, **DO NOT** put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O.Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your SIN # printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a Visa credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you, or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. But here's what is perhaps the most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are :

Equifax Canada: (Your Credit File): 1 - 800 - 465-7166

Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Contact Trans Canada Credit: 416 - 465- 7166

In Canada contact: Human Resources Development Canada (1 -800 - 206-7218)